



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Mountain
Plains
Region

1244 Speer Boulevard
Denver, CO 80204-3585

Reply to
Attn. of: SP 94-71

MAY 26 1994

Subject: Food Resource Network (Chefs) Initiative

To: STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS - Colorado ED, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri ED,
(Special Nutrition Programs) Montana OPI, Nebraska ED, North Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming ED

As you know, Food and Nutrition Service is interested in exploring and establishing connections between chefs and school food service administrators with the ultimate aim of improving acceptance of school meals by students.

There have already been a couple of interesting developments in this area. The Assistant Secretary met recently with a group of chefs and school food service personnel who have had some experience or interest in working with chefs to help improve school meals; and the American Culinary Federation has taken on the "school lunch challenge" as a focal point of its annual contest to develop new recipes.

On a regional level, we will need to determine the feasibility of school food service working with commercial food service in the near future. We are, therefore, asking that you provide us any information, or input you can with regard to resources available in your respective states. Specifically, we would be interested in:

1. A brief description of any ongoing partnerships between school food service (state or local) and individual chefs.
2. Any available information on any such planned collaborations.
3. Any professional organizations which could be contacted, and which you think might be interested in becoming involved in such a collaboration.
4. Any private schools, trade schools, or post-secondary educational offerings which could be a source of information or participants.
5. Any thoughts you or your staff have regarding this initiative.

Where appropriate, please include names, titles, telephone numbers and mailing addresses of persons included in your response.

We would like to receive a response from you by June 30. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. As always, your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Ann C. DeGroat

ANN C. DEGROAT
Regional Director
Special Nutrition Programs